

From: Jana Marie Goodwin (TASCA)
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

As a Microsoft consumer, employee and shareholder, I felt it my obligation to write on behalf of Microsoft corporation.

Our government has spent more time, money and resources fighting Microsoft Corporation than Terrorism! And all based upon allegations from our competitors and their political supporters. As a tax payer, I question this, as being the best use of tax dollars and government resources and the best place for efforts to be invested.

Microsoft has a passion for the customer and it's products and technology. I've been proud to represent them as an employee and to help our customers succeed and grow their businesses with Microsoft technologies and products. I have over the years, continually had happy customers who felt Microsoft contributed greatly to their success and the growth of the industry and was a true partner in their businesses.

Microsoft is not Big Tobacco, it is not misleading, deceiving or intentionally hurting consumers, which makes the allegations and continued lawsuits increasingly more difficult to rationalize. Why should competitors reap the benefits of this suit ?

If consumers and the general public are being hurt, why won't the additional 9 states accept the settlement that proposes to help the consumer and benefit and educate the general public and make technology accessible and available to those who would not have exposure otherwise ?

What I fear, is that the focus has moved away from what is best for consumers, partners, customers and the industry, (not to mention our Nation's economy) by the efforts of competitors and competitive interests, and is aimed at taking down a "powerhouse" or "the richest man in the world". Is this really as objective a process as it should be ?

What is good for "competitors" may not be what's good and healthy for innovation and the industry.

Punishing successful companies and entrepreneurs, is creating an environment that destroys the motivation to innovate and improve and invest in new and improved technologies in all facets of our economy. The value placed on Intellectual Property can not be negotiated away. Will you next have COKE, give PEPSI, their recipe ? Or throw patents out the window in an effort to level the playing field and stifle innovation all together ? There is a difference between Open standards and giving away intellectual property to competitors, then the consumer loses.

And would our competitors willingly give us their source code and

intellectual property ? If we are leveling the playing field then shouldn't everyone comply ?

Based upon the state of our economy, and the recent ENRON scandal, I fear Microsoft is headed in the same direction and thus not hurting the "Richest Man in the world" or this big, bad, bully of a company as it is portrayed, but the average American worker and investor in Microsoft in any fund or pension plan nation wide. My pension and retirement funds have plummeted over the last 2 years as this lawsuit ensues and continues. I fear I will end up like the ENRON employees as I watch my 401 K value fall as a result of this lawsuit and the impact it has had on the economy as a whole and the entire tech sector. Over the years, Microsoft has committed to changing it's business and licensing practices multiple times to comply and paid over \$600M last quarter relating to the lawsuit. At what point can we all resume business and our competitors and special interests be silenced ?

Why are other States, not accepting the proposed settlement and accepting the terms of the settlement, whatever happened to tort reform ?

Can't this battle be fought in the market place and not in the court room ?

Thank you,

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